

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

ACDA-07 TRSE-00 EB-07 CU-02 COME-00 OMB-01 OES-06

INT-05 /087 W

----- 072517

P R 091551Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2901

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 6238

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SV SU, US

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON BARENTS SEA BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS,
POSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS FOR TEMPORARY SOLUTION AND SVALBARD FISHER
ZONE

REF: (A) MOSCOW 19001 (B) OSLOO 6196 (C) OSLO 5991 (D) OSLO 5601

1. (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) PRIME MINISTER NORDLI REPLIED TO QUESTIONS
ON SEVERAL KEY NORTHERN ISSUES IN PRESS CONFERENCE DEC. 8 ASKED
ABOUT SOVIET-NORWEGIAN BARENTS SEA CONTINENTAL SHELF NEGOTIATIONS
SCHEDULED TO BEGIN DECEMBER 13 IN OSLO, NORDLI SAID NORWAY IS
NOT PREPARED TO MAKE ANY
UNILATERAL DEPARTURE FROM THE MEDIAN LINE PRINCIPLE IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS

WITH USSR. IF A SOLUTION IS DESIRED HE SAID, THERE MUST BE MUTUAL
FLEXIBILITY. HE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED NO INDICATION SOVIETS PLAN
TO BE FLEXIBLE, ONLY THAT THEY WERE PREPARED TO CONTINUE THE
NEGOTIATIONS. NORWAY WILL STICK TO ITS MEDIAN LINE POSITION,
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WHICH NORDLI SAID WAS BASED ON SOLID GROUNDS. HE NOTED THAT THE

NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN LENGTHLY AND THAT BOTH PARTIES HAD TO DATE HELD FIRMLY TO THEIR PRINCIPAL DEMAND.

2. NORDLI STATED HE HOPED BOUNDARY COULD BE RESOLVED BY JAN. 1 BUT HE OBSERVED THIS SEEMED UNLIKELY. IF NOT, HE SAID, NEGOTIATIONS WILL HAVE TO BE INITIATED FOR A TEMPORARY SOLUTION FOR SUPERVISION IN THE EVENTUALLY TO BE DELIMITED AREA. HE DID NOT COMMENT FURTHER ON THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A TEMPORARY SOLUTION.

3. COMMENTING ON THE 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE NORWAY WILL ESTABLISH ON JAN 1, NORDLI POINTED OUT ZONE APPLIED TO MAINLAND NORWAY. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EVENTUAL FISHERY CONSERVATION ZONE AROUND SVLABARD, HE INDICATED, HAD NOT YET BEEN TAKEN UP BY GOVERNMENT BUT WILL BE SOON. (END UNCLASSIFIED)

4. (BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL) NORDLI'S COMMENTS REINFORCE PUBLICLY GON POSITION ON BOUNDARY QUESTION AND STATUS FO GON'S CONSIDERATION OF SVALBARD FISHERY CONSERVATION ZONE. NORWEGIANS HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED THEY ARE READY TO BE FLEXIBLE ON BOUNDARY NEGOTIATION WITH SOVIETS. THEY HAVE INDICATED TO US PRIVATELY THEY ARE READY TO "BEND" THEIR MEDIAN LINE WESTWARD, GIVING SOME CONCESSION TO SOVIETS, IF SOVIETS WILL COME OFF THEIR SECTOR LINE. WE KNOW, ADDITIONALLY, SOME GON OFFICIALS HAVE CONSIDERED POSSIBILITY OF SPLITTING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MEDIAN AND SECTOR LINES, OTHER SOURCES HAVE ADBANCED THE IDEA GON MIGHT GO FURTHER TO OBTAIN A QUICK SETTLEMENT. BUT DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURE WOULD PROBABLY MAKE ANY SUBSTANTIAL CONCESSION SUBJECT TO ELECTION CAMPAIGN TREATMENT AND HENCE DIFFICULT.

5. NORDLI'S STATEMENT HAS THE EFFECT OF MAKING IT EVEN LESS LIKELY THAT HIS GOVERNMENT CAN MAKE CONCESSIONS ON BOUNDARY TO THE SOVIETS IN THE ABSENCE OF SOME CHANGES IN THE SOVIETS' POSITION. YET MFA UNDER SECRETARY STOLTENBERG GOT NO INDICATION OF ANY SOVIET FLEXIBILITY DURING HIS VISIT TO MOSCOW LAST WEEK (MOSCOW 19001).

6. THE SVALBARD FISHERY PROTECTION ZONE (FPZ) IS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE CABINET WITHIN NEXT 10 DAYS. EARLIER GON BELIEVED IT WOULD HAVE TIME TO GAIN EXPERIENCE FROM MAINLAND ZONE BEFORE ESTABLISHING THE FPZ AROUND SVALBARD. NOW ECONOMIC ZONE EXTENSIONS IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC AND THE FAILURE OF NEAFC TO ESTABLISH QUOTAS ARE PUTTING CONFIDENTIAL

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ADDITIONAL PRESSURE ON SVALBARD FISHERIES AND REQUIRING NORWEGIANS TO MOVE EARLIER TO IMPLEMENT DESIRED PROTECTION MEASURES. (END CONFIDENTIAL)
ANDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL WATERS, NEGOTIATIONS, BOUNDARY CLAIMS, BARENTS SEA, FISHING LIMITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OSLO06238
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760456-0294
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761258/aaaabyaa.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 19001, 76 OSLO 6196, 76 OSLO 5991, 76 OSLO 5601
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON BARENTS SEA BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS, POSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS FOR TEMPORARY SOLUTION AND SVALBARD FISHER ZONE
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, SV, SU, US, (NORDLI, ODVAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006